

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071565
ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 071565

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GT

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

1. FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL TEXT OF BRIEFING PROVIDED TO SUB-COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1976 BY DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. COMMITTEE MET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. TRANSCRIPT WAS LATER SUBMITTED TO DIA FOR CLEARANCE FOR RELEASE AS CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENT. TITLE OF PUBLICATION IS "SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN CUBA - PARTS VI AND VII: COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE." COPY OF PUBLICATION BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY GUATEMALA. SECTION ON GUATEMALA APPEARS ON PAGES 109"110.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA CONTINUES TO PRESS ITS CLAIM TO THE BRITISH COLONY OF BELIZE, FORMERLY CALLED BRITISH HONDURAS. TENSIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM OVER BELIZE WHICH HEATED UP IN THE LAST HALF OF 1975 HAVE COOLED CONSIDERABLY AS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE MAJOR PARTIES HAVE RESUMED. PREOCCUPATION BY THE ARMY WITH RECONSTRUCTION AND DISASTER RELIEF FOLLOWING THE DEVASTATING
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EARTHQUAKE OF FEBRUARY 4, 1976, MAY HAVE REDUCED THE PRESSURES OF HARDLINERS WITHIN THE MILITARY SPONSORED GOVERNMENT AND IMPROVED THE NEGOTIATING CLIMATE.

"PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S NEGOTIATORS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT, IN PRINCIPLE, THE EXISTENCE OF AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE AND THE NEXT NEGOTIATION SESSION AT

MINISTERIAL LEVEL IS SCHEDULED FOR PANAMA IN LATE SEPTEMBER. IN RECENT WEEKS, HOWEVER, HARDLINE ATTITUDES HAVE RESURFACED WITHIN THE ARMY AS VARIOUS PARTIES BEGIN PLANNING FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF 1978 AND CERTAIN ELEMENTS (SECURITY DELETION) WHO FAVOR A STRONGER POSITION ON BELIZE, HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS PLOTTING AGAINST HIM. THIS COUPLED WITH REPORTS OF A RESURGENCE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY BY MEMBERS OF THE EXTREME LEFT WHO HAVE THREATENED BOTH MILITARY PERSONNEL AND RIGHT-WING POLITICIANS MAY FORCE THE PRESIDENT TO ADOPT A MORE RIGID POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM AND A MORE SEVERE APPROACH TO INTERNAL SECURITY."

CHRISTOPHER

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